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**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
COMMISSION ON
ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST**

In re: Mary Scott Russell
_____ /

C 06-15

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

The ADVOCATE filed the above-mentioned COMPLAINT against RESPONDENT Mary Scott Russell, former mayor of the City of South Miami, alleging violations of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance at Section 2-11.1 (g) *Exploitation of official position prohibited*.

According to the allegations outlined in the COMPLAINT, in and around May 2005, while the RESPONDENT was mayor of the City of South Miami, she used City funds from her discretionary City account to pay for her son's airfare to attend "Dade Days" in Tallahassee. RESPONDENT's son was not an employee or official of the City at the time, nor did he have any official business to conduct in Tallahassee.

Pursuant to the Code of Miami-Dade County, Section 2-1068, the Commission on Ethics & Public Trust has jurisdiction to enforce the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, Section 2-11.1 (g). On May 25, 2006, the Ethics Commission determined the COMPLAINT to be legally sufficient. At the same time, the ADVOCATE moved that the COMPLAINT be dismissed because the RESPONDENT had reimbursed the City for the expense, she was no longer serving as mayor, and no City policy had been in place at the time regarding the use of discretionary funds. The Ethics

Commission granted the motion to dismiss because the public interest would not be served by proceeding further.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT the COMPLAINT is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on May 25, 2006.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON
ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

By:



Kerry E. Rosenthal, Esq.
Chairman